

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re the Application of

Toshiya OHTOMO et al.

Application No.: 09/327,621

Filed: June 8, 1999



Group Art Unit: 2851

Examiner: P. Kim

Docket No.: 101809.03

For: STAGE UNIT, DRIVE TABLE, AND SCANNING EXPOSURE APPARATUS USING
THE SAME

RESPONSE TO RESTRICTION REQUIREMENT

Director of the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office
Washington, D.C. 20231

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TECHNOLOGY CENTER 2800

Sir:

In response to the Restriction Requirement dated April 24, 2000, Applicants hereby elect Group III, claims 26-94 and 97-104. The election is made with traverse.

It is respectfully submitted that the subject matter of all claims 11-104 is sufficiently related that a thorough search for the subject matter for any one group of claims would encompass a search for the subject matter of the remaining claims. Thus, it is respectfully submitted that the search and examination of the entire application could be made without serious burden. See M.P.E.P. §803 in which it is stated that "if the search and examination of the entire application can be made without serious burden, the Examiner must examine it on the merits even though it includes claims to distinct or independent inventions." It is respectfully submitted that this policy should apply in the present application in order to avoid unnecessary delay and expense to Applicants and duplicative examination by the Patent Office.

Respectfully submitted,

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JAO:MAC/ccs
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